

ADMINISTRATION

ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

PROGRAM STATEMENT

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) will need to strengthen its infrastructure by adding staff, upgrading facilities, and increasing financial resources to address priority site-specific and cross-cutting natural resource management issues identified through the management plan review process. In addition to basic infrastructure needs, administrative areas that will be addressed include: building partnerships; improving interagency coordination; and addressing regulatory and enforcement issues.

OUR GOAL

To build a strong foundation which supports the development of: effective program areas; a strong regulatory framework; and an array of partnerships. This foundation will allow for growth and flexibility in addressing the priority issues and recommendations laid out in the management plan.



Photo: CBNMS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The sanctuary's administration provides an organized structure and support system for implementing management strategies while providing the flexibility and guidance necessary to address changing, new, and emerging resource management issues.

The objectives of the sanctuary's administrative program are to develop an administrative framework to continuously evaluate, maintain, and expand, as necessary, administrative operations; identify appropriate staffing, budget levels, and facility needs to support implementation of the management plan; and continue to build on partnerships, collaborative efforts, and coordination with other agencies, institutions and organizations.

THE JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW (JMPR)

Education and Outreach is one of the action plans in the CBNMS Draft Management Plan (DMP). The DMP includes five action plans that, once finalized, will guide sanctuary management for the next five years. The plan is a revision of the original management plan, developed when the sanctuary was designated in 1989, and is focused on how best to understand and protect the sanctuary's resources. The National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) is updating the management plans for Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries in what is known as the Joint Management Plan Review.



CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

CBNMS protects an area of 397 square nautical miles (526 square miles) off the northern California coast. The sanctuary is an area of special significance due to its unique geological and oceanic features that create conditions which support extraordinarily diverse and abundant marine life.

CBNMS is located in one of the world's four major coastal upwelling systems. The combination of oceanic conditions and undersea topography provides for a highly productive environment in a discrete, well-defined area (Schmieder, 1982a). The main feature of the sanctuary is Cordell Bank, an offshore granite bank located on the edge of the continental shelf. The vertical relief and hard substrate of the Bank provides benthic habitat with near-shore characteristics in an open ocean environment, 20 nautical miles from shore.



ACTION PLAN

The sanctuary's Administration Action Plan was developed jointly with a variety of stakeholders and partners and includes, but is not limited to, the following components:

- Expand its facilities to include satellite offices, visitor centers, signage, and vessels located throughout the region.
- Fill basic staffing requirements to provide support for administration and the program areas of conservation science, education and outreach, and resource management.
- Develop partnerships and identify outside funding sources and in-kind services to assist in the implementation of the management plan.
- As the sanctuary advisory council matures, it will assume a leading role in providing advice to the sanctuary manager.
- Formalize intra- and interagency partnerships to ensure coordination and cooperation with federal, state, and local jurisdictions within or adjacent to the sanctuary.
- Enhance resource protection through increased compliance with sanctuary regulations and other applicable state and federal statutes.
- In coordination with GFNMS and MBNMS develop a plan that prepares sanctuary staff to respond to an emergency in or adjacent to the sanctuary.
- Continuously evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of current sanctuary regulations and permitting authority in addressing the priority resource management issues identified in the management plan.
- Track existing, emerging, and potential future activities and their impacts on living marine resources and habitats of the sanctuary.
- Ensure that CBNMS' boundary reflects and is inclusive of the area's natural resource and ecological qualities, including the biogeographic representation of the area.
- Develop and make use of performance indicators to measure effectiveness of the management of the sanctuary as a whole, as well as to evaluate specific strategies within the management plan.

TO GET INVOLVED

CBNMS welcomes your ideas about important resource management issues in the sanctuary. A Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement are scheduled for release to the public in 2006. Following their release, hearings will be held in several locations throughout the region to gather public comment. Written comments will be accepted as well. To find out about public hearings, or how to submit written comments, please visit our website at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/jointplan>.